

## NOTES ON EDUCATION.

The Columbia Law School has 436 students, of whom 245 are college graduates.

The Buffalo Common Council has resolved not to reduce the salaries of the city teachers.

The Senior Class at Harvard has now 202 members. It has had altogether 271 members.

Yale receives by bequest from the late George Brinley \$10,000, of which the larger part will be taken in books from the sale of his library.

The authorities of Colorado College have established academies at Salt Lake City and at Santa Fe, whence they hope to take candidates for the college classes.

It is said that out of 719 men in the four classes at Harvard, 288 are excused from prayers. Of the 292 seniors, 60 are excused; of the 174 juniors, 66 are excused; of the 218 sophomores, 87; and of the 227 freshmen, 75.

The new West Virginia school law provides that the retail price of school books shall not exceed the present wholesale price, and that the retail price shall be published on the backs of the books, and also posted up in school houses.

There are in the South 1,579,097 negro children of school age. Of this number the schools reach 600,000. The Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church has disbursed \$71,585 40 in its eleven years of existence for the education of the negroes.

The percentage of female students at Boston University continues to grow. The first year it was 20 per cent, the second 21, the third 22, the fourth 24.2, the fifth or last year, 25.7. The university has received \$2,000 as the nucleus of a fund for the endowment of a woman's professorship.

Tennessee has a school population of 448,617; of this number, 112,100 are colored children. There are 5,346 schools in the State; 1,111 of these are for colored pupils. The average attendance last year was 172,198. Of the 5,692 teachers employed, 1,135 are colored. The school expenditures last year were \$15,247.

A member of the Baltimore School Board advocates the ventilation of school-rooms by means of boards from twelve to fifteen inches wide, and fastened on the inside to the window frame, the window to be raised from four to six inches. The foul air will be forced out by means of a fan ventilator placed in the roof, and having proper connections therewith.

It ought to be an established fact that the compensation of teachers must not depend on length of service but on the capacity of the teacher. There are teachers who have been ten years at the work, yet who are creatures of routine, of technicality, utterly without the inspiring quality. Then there are teachers still in the first year of their labor, who were born for that labor, and who are nearly as suggestive, as adaptable, and as judicious as they will be by next year.

The degree of A. B. cum laude will, after June of next year, be given at Harvard to every graduate who attains 75 per cent in his college course, or receives honorable mention in one study, provided in the last case that he attains 70 per cent in his college course, or 75 per cent for the last three years. This new plan also provides that the faculty, so far from being unmoved by marks in making the awards, will give the student the credit due him for proficiency in any special study.

The president of the Chicago Board of Education very wisely suggests that something may be done to counteract the effect of sensational story-papers by calling the attention of parents to such books as would be beneficial to children, and through the school incidentally to read them. This last is most necessary; young people will rarely read a really good and useful book which their taste does not demand. The right sort of teacher—one full of tact, cultivation and judgment—will know how to insure the proper taste. The ten-minute talk which has interested a bright boy in some suggestive and valuable book may serve to bend his mind for life in a noble and useful direction.

Wisconsin has 4,276 regular school districts and 1,083 joint districts. The school population is 478,692; the whole number attending school last year was 297,692. The number attending private schools was 25,532. There are eighty-five free high schools in the State. The total school receipts of the year were \$2,749,955 93; the expenditures were \$2,148,320 54. The average expense for each scholar was \$7 24. The average monthly salary of male teachers in the country districts was \$85 45; of female teachers \$25 33. The salary of the male teacher in the city was \$105 55; of the female teacher \$56 53. The average value of school property is \$5,115,555 92. There are now in the denominational colleges 915 students; the total number of their graduates was 713.

This paragraph, from the report of the Portland (Me.) School Committee, has a world of excellent suggestion in it to those who like to understand: "Some teachers, by nature, are better fitted to manage the young, to impart instruction, to apply proper stimulus to the mind, than others are. They have a peculiar adaptability for this particular calling, a facility in the use of language, a power of illustration, an intelligent enthusiasm, an earnestness of manner, which cannot fail to inspire interest in the minds of their pupils, and make them eminently successful as teachers. We have some among our teachers who belong to this class. It is always pleasant to visit their rooms, and witness the quietude and ease with which they govern, the facility and clearness with which they impart instruction, and the eager and respectful attention which, without any apparent effort, they receive from all."

Superintendent Eliot, of Boston, says that the great time to do for our primary pupils is to keep them fresh and impressionable. Instead of snaring them in the mechanical routine which is often imposed upon them, they should be left free to be natural, not noisy or ill-behaved, but childlike, even childish, if prudence is the only alternative. A child likes to assert himself still more than a man. Most of the defects attributed to primary instruction arise from mistaking his object. Instead of being contented with the initiative, we strike into the very substance of education, and aim at effects belonging to a later stage. In this earlier one, we should be satisfied with opening or expanding the minds of our pupils; we should not try to fill them. We have to set the intellectual powers in conscious exercise, but not to exercise them all, or any one of them entirely. Primary teaching is an impulse rather than a complete movement.

A speaker at the recent meeting of the Buffalo Teachers' Association said that the present system of examinations does not show what the pupil knows, nor does it demonstrate what the candidate knows who aspires to become a teacher. Two things, he added, are especially noticeable in popular school education. It usually leads to no interest in literature, nor acquaintance with it, nor to any sense of the value of history for modern men, and its most characteristic and general result is a distaste for manual labor. It is notorious that a pupil can go through a system of so-called liberal course of study and graduate with honor at the highest institutions, in complete ignorance of that vast body of facts and principles which has arisen in modern times under the name of science, and the object of which is to explain the existing order of the world. It is to be wished that such statements were often made in teachers' meetings.

The reports of the special committee on teachers' salaries of the Philadelphia Board of Education will be acted upon next week. The majority report recommends that salaries be graded upon the basis of term of service and teaching capacity combined, and adds: "While admitting that the scholarship of a teacher in the grammar schools is more severely taxed than in schools of lower grade, we maintain, on the other hand, that the teaching power required is much more considerable in the lower than in the higher grades of schools. It is the deliberate judgment of the most eminent educators in the country that none but the most competent teachers should be placed in charge of the lower primary classes. Not unfrequently a vacancy in the first or second assistantship of a grammar school will lead to six, eight or perhaps a dozen other changes by way of promotion. Even if the teacher be specially qualified for the position she is holding at the time of this promotion 'all along the line,' such consideration is not permitted to interfere with her right to be advanced. In short, the adaptation of the teacher to the place becomes a matter of less importance than her claims to promotion in order that her pay may be secured."

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